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Economic Committee (EC) Chair's Report 2026

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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Economic Committee Chair's Report 2026

October 2026

I. OVERVIEW

1 In 2026 the Economic Committee (EC) progressed goals set by ministers in the Structural Reform Ministers' Statement, and the Strengthened and Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (SEAASR) 2026–2030. Including progress towards a SEAASR implementation framework, development of individual action plans and progress towards a review of the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Collaborative Framework for Cross-Border Business-to-Business Disputes (Collaborative Framework).

2 The EC met twice in 2026, with the first meeting on 7-8 February during SOM1 in Guangzhou, China and the second on 24-25 August during SOM3 in Dalian, China.

II. EC INITIATIVES AND DELIVERABLES

A. SEAASR Implementation

3 In 2026, EC commenced implementation of SEAASR, focusing on establishing the implementation framework for the new five-year structural reform agenda. Work during the year included development of the SEAASR Implementation Plan and supporting indicators.

4 Economies submitted Individual Action Plans (IAPs) that set out their structural reform actions under SEAASR. At the second EC meeting in 2026 (EC2), a number of economies showcased actions under their IAPs. Economies were encouraged to update their IAPs regularly.

B. APEC Economic Policy Reports

5 This year the EC's annual flagship structural reform publication, the APEC Economic Policy Report (AEPR), focused on "**Structural Reform and AI-Driven Digital Transformation**"**.** Case studies and Individual Economy Reports are annexed to the AEPR. The 2026 AEPR as prepared by the APEC PSU, together with a consultant, and was funded by contributions from Australia and New Zealand. The AEPR Core Team was led by Korea with support from core team members from Australia; Canada; China; New Zealand; Russia; Chinese Taipei and Viet Nam. The 2026 AEPR is pending endorsement by the EC.

6 The EC is discussing the proposed topic for the 2027 AEPR.

7 The EC continued to promote implementation of the recommendations of the 2025 AEPR on "**Structural Reform to Increase Participation in the Formal Economy**". An implementation survey was undertaken by the PSU and presented at EC2. The findings showed active and planned reforms across the report's three objectives, with particular focus on digitalisation and AI adoption, skills development, support for MSMEs, social protection and measures to improve formalisation outcomes. The survey also identified strong interest in further knowledge sharing and capacity building, providing a basis for future EC work to support implementation of the 2025 AEPR's recommendations.

C. Competition Policy and Law Group (CPLG) and EC Friends of the Chair groups (FotCs)

8 The CPLG and EC's FotCs continued to advance work supporting EC priorities in 2026. The CPLG adopted its 2026 Work Plan and continued capacity building on competition policy and enforcement, including through a workshop on the effective use of market study tools. The Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure (SELI) FotC continued its work on online dispute resolution and secured transactions law reform, including implementation of the APEC ODR Collaborative Framework and consideration of emerging issues associated with the use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, in dispute resolution. The Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) FotC progressed its 2026–2027 work plan to support implementation of the Fourth EoDB Action Plan (2025–2035), with a focus on implementation, peer learning and capacity building across the EC's five Business Ready priority areas. The Regulatory Reform FotC also progressed its 2026–2027 work plan, focusing on good regulatory practices, peer learning and international regulatory cooperation in support of SEAASR 2026–2030.

D. APEC ODR Collaborative Framework

9 In 2026, the EC progressed the review of the APEC ODR Collaborative Framework, as requested by Ministers in the 2025 APEC Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement. A ODR review core team was formed in June to assist in coordinating discussions and taking the review forward. A dedicated meeting was held alongside EC2 in August to initiate discussions on the review and its future direction. Japan undertook to lead the review process and will work with economies to take this work forward.

E. EC and CPLG Projects, Policy Dialogues and Publications

10 During the year, the EC and CPLG held 2 policy dialogues, implemented or planned 6 workshops and events (both APEC-funded and self-funded) and published or planned to publish 12 publications, each of which contributed to APEC's priorities.

11 The following EC and CPLG policy dialogues were held in 2026:

Timing	Economy	Title
SOM3	Hong Kong, China	Policy Dialogue on International instruments as useful tools for structural reform
SOM3	Australia	Structural reform and disability: access to assistive technologies.

12 The following EC and CPLG workshops and events were held in 2026:

Project Code	Economy	Topic and Date
EC 201 2024A	Japan	The Effects of Structural Reform on Digitalization, Productivity and Labor Migration on APEC Economies in the Age of Ageing Population – 26-27 February 2026

Project Code	Economy	Topic and Date
CPLG 201 2025A	China	Workshop on Effective Use of Market Study Tools to Inform Competition Enforcement Policy – 5-6 February 2026)
EC 203 2025A	PNG	EC Workshop on Electricity Reform to Promote Green Growth in APEC – 20 August 2026
EC 01 2026S	Hong Kong China	EC Workshop on Use of International Legal Instruments in Cross-Border Commercial Disputes and Use of Digital Assets – 21 August 2026
EC 202 2025A	China	EC-SCSC 19th Conference on Good Regulatory Practices – 22-23 August 2026
EC-GOS 02 2022S	Australia	EC-GOS Joint Workshop on Services and Structural Reform – 23 August 2026
EC 201 2025	USA	APEC Workshop on Improving the Ease of Doing Business: Market Competition – 22-23 October 2026

13 The following EC and CPLG publications and satellite websites were published [or planned to be published] in 2026:

Project Code	Economy	Publication and Link
		2026 APEC economic Policy Report (forthcoming)
EC 02 2025S	Australia	**Structural Reforms and Disability: Increasing Economic Participation Through Access to Assistive Technology Project Report**
EC 203 2024A	Singapore	**Summary Report on Exploring APEC's Path Towards Empowering Sustainable Green Growth** **Background Study for Exploring APEC's Path Towards Empowering Sustainable Green Growth**
CPLG 01 2025S	Canada	**Driving Growth and Innovation through Competition Cooperation**
EC 104 2024A	China	**Structural Reform and Residents' Income Growth in APEC Economies: Empirical Assessment and Case Studies**
EC-GOS 02 2022S	Australia	**Health Systems Confront Demographic Reality: Cross-Border Solutions Matter**
EC 105 2024A	US	**Study on International Standards for Agriculture Financing**
EC 201 2023A	Malaysia	**Implementation Toolkit on Adopting Agile Regulatory Governance to Foster Innovation** **Project Report on Adopting Agile Regulatory Governance to Foster Innovation**
EC 01 2025S	Hong Kong, China	**Workshop on Use of International Instruments to Legally Enable End-to-End Digitalization of Trade**
		2025 APEC Economic Policy Report on Structural Reform to Increase Participation in the Formal Economy

14 The EC expresses appreciation to the organisers, experts and participants for these capacity building activities and projects.

15 In 2026, 7 EC & CPLG APEC-funded projects and 2 self-funded projects were approved.

III. EC REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE PUTRAJAYA VISION 2040

16 The EC continued to advance the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) through implementation of its structural reform agenda. In 2026, the EC focused on operationalising SEAASR 2026–2030, including progressing its Implementation Plan and indicators and showcasing economy-level reforms through IAPs. The EC's broader work programme also supported these objectives through the 2026 AEPR on *Structural Reform and AI-Driven Digital Transformation*, policy dialogues, capacity building and projects across key structural reform priorities.

IV. EC COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES

17 In addition to the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the APA, the EC supported processes led by other APEC fora, including the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap; the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap; the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth; the Yearly Review Framework for the APEC Connectivity Blueprint; and the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular Green (BCG) Economy.

18 In 2026, EC engaged in cross-fora collaboration across various APEC groups, for example, EC worked with the Groups on Services (GOS) on Services and Structural reform and The Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) on the 19th Conference on Good Regulatory Practices. The Chair of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), the Chair of the Senior Finance Officials (SFOM) and the GOS Convenor also participated in EC meetings.

19 The EC collaborated closely with ABAC and private sector representatives, as well as relevant international organisations including the PECC, OECD, World Bank, IMF, HCCH, UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT and WEF, among others.

IV. EC GOVERNANCE

20 The EC reviewed the governance and structure of its FoTC groups to ensure they remain relevant and effective in supporting implementation of SEAASR 2026–2030. No economies nominated convenors for the Public Sector Governance (PSG) and Corporate Law and Governance (CLG) FoTCs, and these groups will therefore be sunset at the end of 2026. The EC also discussed opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of the remaining FoTCs, including through clearer workplans and substantive activities, and the potential establishment of a limited number of new FoTCs to support emerging priorities under SEAASR.

21 The EC expresses gratitude to those that have supported EC by serving in leadership positions.

V. FUTURE WORK

22 The following key EC events are due to take place in 2027:

- First Economic Committee Meeting (SOM1)
- Second Economic Committee Meeting (SOM3)
- Evaluating the Implementation of the APEC Collaborative Framework and the use of ODR in Economies Generally (including in Courts) Workshop

- Structural Reform and Disability: Financing and Procurement Models for Increasing Access to Assistive Technology in the APEC region workshop (SOM1)
- Services and Structural Reform Workshop
- Public Resource Allocation to Manage the Impacts of Digital Transformation on Economic Growth workshop (SOM3)
- Ex-Post Regulatory Review Mechanisms as Part of Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) workshop (SOM3)
- Improving Ease of Doing Business in APEC: Advancing Priority Reforms and Implementation Workshop
- Facilitating Economic Growth Through the Use of International Legal Instruments workshop
- [TBC] CTI-EC Joint Policy Dialogue

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Annex A: Strengthened and Enhanced APEC Agenda on Structural Reform (SEAASR) Implementation Plan

Pillar 1: Enabling Fair, Market-Oriented Competition						
	Key structural reforms under this pillar could include, for example: • building competition policy capacity to promote and enforce fair competition in the digital era and address competition issues related to sustainable economic growth; • strengthening regulatory frameworks to facilitate access to capital and diverse financing options, enabling business growth for all ; • strengthening and promoting effective consumer protection regimes; • encouraging good regulatory practices, including streamlining the procedures and ex post reviews , and cuts to unnecessary red tape; • strengthening regulation of e-commerce through implementation of competition policy and law, among others, to safeguard all forms of transactions in the digital economy and address risks and challenges in the online setting; and • improving investment in infrastructure that bridges distance, support reliance of new work arrangements and creates jobs in the digital economy • Promoting competitive neutrality to ensure a level playing filed between SOEs and private businesses, as well as between domestic and foreign firms. • Enhancing transparency in market rules, pricing mechanisms and bidding process to enable informed decision-making by market participants. • Fostering cross-border cooperation and information sharing among competition agencies to address international cartel cases and cross-border digital economy disputes.					
	Key EC Initiatives/Actions	**SEAASR Indicator**	**APA collective action**	**Cross pillar/ Subfora support**	**Milestones/Timeline**	**Volunteer Lead Economy**
1.	Advance work on the APEC Collaborative Framework for Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) of Cross-Border B2B Disputes (Collaborative Framework), including capacity building workshops and events such as: • Facilitating the Use of ODR under the APEC Collaborative Framework and in	A.4 C.1 D.2	2.A.d 2.B.f 2.C.h 3.A.a	SEAASR Pillars 3 and 4	Completion Report for the Facilitating the Use of ODR under the APEC Collaborative Framework and in Economies Generally (including in Courts) project finalised in March 2026.	Japan

	Economies Generally (including in Courts) • Enhancing the APEC Collaborative Framework and Use of ODR					
2.	Secured Finance to Facilitate Sustainable Economic Growth and Improve Food Security	A.4 B.1 B.2 D.2	2.A.d 2.A.e 3.A.c	SEAASR Pillars 2 and 4	Study on International Standards for Agriculture Financing published in May 2026	United States
3.	19th Conference on Good Regulatory Practice (GRP19)	A.2	2.A.a 2.A.d 2.A.e 2.B.c 2.B.f		19th Conference on Good Regulatory Practice held in August 2026	China
4.	Joint EC and GOS work on Services and Structural Reform	B.1 B.2 D.2	1.A.b 2.A.d 2.A.e		- Joint EC and GOS Symposium held in Feb 2026 - Joint EC and GOS Workshop on Services and Structural Reform held in August 2026	Australia
5.	Workshop on Use of International Legal Instruments in Cross-Border Commercial Disputes and Use of Digital Tokens	B.2 C.1 C.2	2.A.d	Pillar 3	Workshop on Use of International Legal Instruments in Cross-Border Commercial Disputes and Use of Digital Tokens held in August 2026	Hong Kong, China

Pillar 2: Enabling Environment for Doing Business						
	• Key structural reforms under this pillar could include, for example: • lowering or removing barriers for reallocating resources to new growth sectors and shifting consumer preferences for digital services; • supporting industry development that will deliver quality jobs and work opportunities; • strengthen and promote effective public institutions that can support resilience and respond to complex, rapid and unpredictable change; • supporting and strengthening the rule of law, combatting corruption and delivering efficient administration, transparency and accountability; • promoting smarter, optimized uses of energy and resources to build long-term economic resilience; and • boosting and enhancing the ease of doing business including reducing burdens and barriers to starting and expanding businesses. • Accelerating the digitalization of administrative procedures, establishing single-window systems, and expanding e-government services to reduce compliance costs, processing times and face to face friction for businesses. • Strengthening judicial efficiency and legal frameworks for dispute resolution, contract enforcement, and market exit/insolvency procedures, enabling viable businesses to restructure and distressed firms to exit smoothly					
	Key EC Initiatives/Actions	**SEAASR Indicator**	**APA collective action**	**Cross pillar/ Subfora support**	**Milestones/ Timeline**	**Volunteer Lead Economy**
1.	Improving Ease of Doing Business in APEC: A Focus on Critical Areas of Reform	A.2 B.1	2.A.d		Workshop held in October 2026 on Jakarta	United States
2.						

Pillar 3: Promoting Innovation and Digitalisation						
	Key structural reforms under this pillar could include, for example: • investing in workforce adaptability by implementing targeted reskilling and upskilling programs for workers affected by automation and digital transformation; • improving labour market efficiency (including wage bargaining, minimum wage, hiring and firing practices) to support and encourage job creation; • bridging the digital divide with access to the equipment, technology and skills required for the digital economy e.g. STEM skills and arts; • promoting digital financial services to the benefit of consumers and support all stakeholders; • leveraging technology and digital tools for timely monitoring and evaluation of government policiesand dispute resolution; • encouraging and promoting business innovation in new products and services, including R&D investment; • strengthening partnerships promoting digitalization and innovation; and • enhancing protection of privacy in relation to the development and application of new technologies and the sharing of data. • Upgrading and expanding resilient digital infrastructure (including high-speed broadband, 5G/6G networks, data centers, and cloud computing) to ensure universal, affordable, and secure digital access for all businesses and citizens. • Establishing regulatory sandboxes and flexible policy frameworks to enable the testing and scaling of novel business models, FinTech solutions, and emerging technologies in a controlled, low-risk environment. • Fostering a vibrant startup ecosystem by improving access to venture capital, strengthening university-industry collaboration, and streamlining technology transfer and commercialization. • Promoting alignment with international digital standards, technical interoperability, and paperless trade systems to facilitate seamless cross-border digital trade and e-commerce. • Strengthening national cybersecurity frameworks, emergency response capabilities, and digital identity systems to build public and business trust in online transactions and digital platforms.					
	Key EC Initiatives/Actions	**SEAASR Indicator**	**APA collective action**	**Cross pillar/ Subfora support**	**Milestones/Timeline**	**Volunteer Lead Economy**
1.	Adopting Agile Regulatory Governance to Foster Innovation	A.2 A.3 B.1 C.1	1.A.a 2.A.d 2.B.b	SEAASR Pillar 1	Toolkit and Completion report published in January 2026.	**Malaysia**

2.	The Effects of Structural Reform on Digitalization, Productivity and Labor Migration on APEC Economies in the Age of Ageing Population	A.1 A.3 B.3 C.3	2.A.e 2.B.c 2.B.d	SEAASR Pillar 1	Workshop held on 25-26 February 2026 in Tokyo, Japan	Japan

Pillar 4: Empowering All to Achieve Their Economic Potential for Sustainable Economic Growth.						
	Key structural reforms under this pillar could include, for example: • improving access to different sectors including healthcare, education, infrastructure and employment services • strengthening financial market regulations that support access to capital and finance to help all businesses grow; • improving access to social protection schemes for workers navigating economic transitions or shifts toward new sectors, including gig and non-traditional workers; • ensuring equitable and effective taxation and transfer policies for broader economic participation ; • strengthening laws and regulations, which protect against discrimination and encourage participation by all groups; • exploring and adopting economic policies that support broader efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including extreme weather and natural disasters; and • exploring and advancing initiatives that support all with untapped economic potential . • Supporting a just transition toward a low-carbon and digital economy by providing targeted safety nets, green skill reskilling, and career transition support for vulnerable workers and communities impacted by decarbonization and structural shifts. • Advancing policies that remove structural barriers for women-led enterprises, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and underrepresented entrepreneurs to access global value chains, trade, and procurement markets. • Strengthening adaptive social protection systems and developing innovative disaster risk financing and insurance mechanisms to protect vulnerable populations and small businesses against climate-induced shocks					
	Key EC Initiatives/Actions	**SEAASR Indicator**	**APA collective action**	**Cross pillar/ Subfora support**	**Milestones/Timeline**	**Volunteer Lead Economy**
1.	Increasing Residents' Income in APEC Economies Through Structural Reform	A.1 B.3 B.5 D.1 D.3	3.A.a	Pillar 2 Pillar 3	Project report on Structural Reform and Residents' Income Growth in APEC Economies: Empirical Assessment and Case Studies published in April 2026	China

2.	Exploring APEC's Path Towards Empowering Sustainable Green Growth	B.4 D.5	2.A.d 3.C.a 3.C.b	Pillar 2 Pillar 3	Project Summary Report and Background Report published in August 2026	Singapore
3.	Workshop on electricity reform to promote green growth in APEC	A.4 B.4 D.5	2.A.d 3.C.b	Pillar 1	Workshop on electricity reform to promote green growth in APEC held in August 2026	Papua New Guinea
4.	Structural Reforms for Disability: Increasing Economic Participation Through Access to Assistive Technology	D.1 D.5	2.A.d 2.B.d 3.A.a	Pillar 3	Project Policy Report published in September 2026	Australia

Key
SEAASR Indicators [DRAFT]

Pillar 1: Enabling Fair, Market-Oriented Competition	
Potential Theme	**Indicator**
A.1. **Advancing labour market development**	• World Bank Indicators on Women, Business and the Law • UNESCO Percentage of Graduates from STEM Programs in Tertiary Education
A.2. **Improving business regulations**	• OECD Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index • OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index • APEC Index for Measuring the Regulatory Environment for Services Trade • World Bank Logistics Performance Index • UNCTAD Liner Shipping Connectivity Index • World Bank Business Ready (B-READY) Indicators • UNCITRAL Model Laws Adoption Status
A.3. **Promoting innovation and productivity growth**	• UNESCO Gross R&D Expenditure • The Conference Board Labour Productivity Per Person Employed
A.4. **Strengthening access to essential services, infrastructure and social protection**	• WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program Indicators for Water Supply and Sanitation • ILO Indicators on Social Protection • World Bank and OECD Indicators on Healthcare Resources • ITU Indicators on Access to ICT Infrastructure • World Bank Global Findex Indicators on Adult Population Access to Financial Services • APERC Total Energy Supply and Electricity Generation by Sources • WHO Global Health Expenditure Database Indicators

Pillar 2: Enabling Environment for Doing Business	
Potential Theme	**Indicator**
B.1. **Strengthening the business environment**	• World Bank Business Ready (B-READY) Indicators • UNCITRAL Model Laws Adoption Status

B.2. **Deepening trade and investment linkages**	• OECD Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index • OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index • APEC Index for Measuring the Regulatory Environment for Services Trade • World Bank Logistics Performance Index • UNCTAD Liner Shipping Connectivity Index
B.3. **Enhancing labour market and developing human capital**	• World Bank Indicators on Women, Business and the Law • The Conference Board Labour Productivity Per Person Employed • UNESCO Percentage of Graduates from STEM Programs in Tertiary Education
B.4. **Promoting infrastructure development and innovation ecosystems**	• UNESCO Gross R&D Expenditure • ITU Indicators on Access to ICT Infrastructure • World Bank Global Findex Indicators on Adult Population Access to Financial Services • WIPO Global Innovation Index • APER Total Energy Supply and Electricity Generation by Sources
B.5. **Improving access to essential services and social protection**	• WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program Indicators for Water Supply and Sanitation • ILO Indicators on Social Protection • World Bank and OECD Indicators on Healthcare Resources • APERC Total Energy Supply and Electricity Generation by Sources • WHO Global Health Expenditure Database Indicators

Pillar 3: Promoting Innovation and Digitalisation	
Potential Theme	**Indicator**
C.1. **Accelerating innovation and digitalisation**	• UNESCO Gross R&D Expenditure • ITU Indicators on Access to ICT Infrastructure • OECD Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index • The Conference Board Labour Productivity Per Person Employed • World Bank Global Findex Indicators on Adult Population Access to Financial Services • WIPO Global Innovation Index • APERC Total Energy Supply and Electricity Generation by Sources
C.2. **Enhancing regulatory clarity and certainty**	• OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index • APEC Index for Measuring the Regulatory Environment for Services Trade

	• World Bank Business Ready (B-READY) Indicators • WIPO Global Innovation Index
Strengthening human capital development	• OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Indicators on Reading, Mathematics, and Science • UNESCO Tertiary Gross Enrolment Ratio • UNESCO Percentage of Graduates from STEM Programs in Tertiary Education

Pillar 4: Empowering All to Achieve Their Economic Potential for Sustainable Economic Growth.	
Potential Theme	**Indicator**
D.1. Promoting participation by all	• ILO Employment to Population Ratio • ILO Labour Force Participation Rate for Age Group 65+ • ILO Labour Income Distribution by Decile • ILO Share of Youth Unemployment • World Bank Indicators on Women, Business, and the Law • World Bank Business Ready (B-READY) Indicators • ILO Indicators of Job Quality
D.2. Improving access to the global economy	• OECD Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index • OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index • APEC Index for Measuring the Regulatory Environment for Services Trade • World Bank Logistics Performance Index • UNCTAD Liner Shipping Connectivity Index
D.3. Supporting upgrading efforts	• The Conference Board Labour Productivity Per Persons Employed • WIPO Global Innovation Index
D.4. Enhancing access to quality education	• OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Indicators on Reading, Mathematics, and Science • UNESCO Tertiary Gross Enrolment Ratio • UNESCO Percentage of Graduates from STEM Programs in Tertiary Education
D.5. Improving access to basic services, infrastructure and social protection	• WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program Indicators for Water Supply and Sanitation • ILO Indicators on Social Protection • World Bank and OECD Indicators on Healthcare Resources • ITU Indicators on Access to ICT Infrastructure • World Bank Global Findex Indicators Adult Population Access to Financial Services

	• APERC Total Energy Supply and Electricity Generation by Sources • WHO Global Health Expenditure Database Indicators

Aotearoa Plan of Action[1] Key– Collective actions

Economic Driver 1: Trade and Investment	
Objective	**Collective action**
A. "To ensure that the Asia-Pacific remains the world's most dynamic and interconnected regional economy, we acknowledge the importance of, and will continue to work together to deliver, a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment."	**1.A.a** Progress liberalisation of trade in goods by reducing unnecessary barriers, strengthening trade facilitation, and fostering regulatory reform; **1.A.b** Progress services liberalisation, facilitation and cooperation, including by implementing the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap; **1. A.c** Promote the flow of quality investment through steps such as work on investment facilitation and liberalisation; **1.A.d** Promote adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property, including by providing capacity building, particularly to spur economic development and innovation; and **1.A.e** Increase trade predictability and openness by improving economies' transparency through trade measures and policies.
B. "We reaffirm our support for agreed upon rules of the WTO in delivering a well-functioning multilateral trading system and promoting the stability and predictability of international trade flows"	**1.B.a** Support APEC's role as an incubator of ideas by advancing new approaches that help deliver a well-functioning multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core; **1.B.b** Support progress of negotiations at the WTO to deliver a trade and investment environment that is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable; **1.B.c** Support implementation of WTO disciplines arising from negotiations, including in prospective areas such as harmful fisheries subsidies, and agriculture negotiations;

[1] https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/leaders-declarations/2021/2021-leaders-declaration/annex-aotearoa-plan-of-action

	1.B.d Encourage, as appropriate, WTO members' discussions towards necessary reform of the WTO across all its functions; and **1.B.e** Advance capacity building programmes to support the implementation of and adherence to WTO rules, including transparency and notification obligations.
C. "We will further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings."	**1.C.a** Complete the unfinished business of the Bogor Goals and further deepen economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven; **1.C.b** Effectively advance efforts on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda, consistent with the Lima Declaration; **1.C.c** Strengthen APEC's key role as an incubator of ideas on trade and investment issues in the region; **1.C.d** Advance capacity building programmes and cooperate on best practice for the development of and participation in high standard regional undertakings; and **1.C.e** Carry out discussions on, and studies into, areas of convergence and divergence across all chapters of trade agreements in the region that contribute to high standard and comprehensive undertakings.
D. "We will promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct."	**1.D.a** Implement APEC's Connectivity Blueprint, including by strengthening connectivity and resilient supply chains within APEC, and by cooperating to equip businesses to better understand their supply chains; **1.D.b** Promote trade and investment facilitation for all, including by: fully implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and seeking to build on it where appropriate; working towards digitalising border processes facilitated by application of internationally recognised standards, strengthening customs cooperation and increasing port cooperation; and the adoption and improvement of effective standards and conformance systems, encompassing standardisation, accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment and market surveillance; **1.D.c** Address key infrastructure gaps and enhance connectivity by creating transparent regulatory environments, promoting dialogue, and sharing best practices that enable quality infrastructure development and investment, which remains accessible, sustainable and affordable with respect to life-cycle costs; **1.D.d** Improve digital connectivity in the region; **1.D. e** Promote and cooperate on measures that facilitate the safe cross-border movement of people, particularly in the context of changing pandemic related health and travel measures, so as to strengthen tourism, aviation and similarly affected sectors; **1.D.f** Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation to promote responsible business conduct, particularly with the private sector; and

	1.D.g Promote capacity building to improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity.
Economic Driver 2: Innovation and Digitalisation	
Objective	**Collective action**
A. "We will pursue structural reforms and sound economic policies to promote innovation as well as improve productivity and dynamism."	**2.A.a** Promote macro-economic policies, including sound fiscal and monetary policies that are calibrated to combat the negative macro-economic impact of global pandemics such as COVID-19, support recovery, and contribute to future growth through: sharing information and best practice; promoting good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation; and building capacity to support implementation of commitments, including through the Cebu Action Plan; **2.A.b** Improve fiscal sustainability and transparency to support long-term resilient development and future financing needs; and **2.A.c** Collaborate across relevant APEC fora on such issues related to macro-economic policies, including services and the digital economy. **2.A.d** Advance future APEC initiatives on structural reform under the four pillars of the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR), including through: sharing information and best practice; promoting good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation; and building capacity to support implementation of EAASR commitments; and **2.A.e** Collaborate across relevant APEC fora on issues related to structural reform, including services and the digital economy.
B. "To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation."	**2.B.a** Identify ways to support resilience and recovery by utilising science, technology and innovation systems, including through capacity building; **2.B.b** Adopt new and emerging technologies to stimulate growth, connectivity and digital transformation; **2.B.c** Share best practice, and promote approaches for a digital economy that fosters competition and promotes innovation; **2.B.d** Address challenges and barriers to achieving an enabling, inclusive, open, fair and non-discriminatory digital and innovation environment; **2.B.e** Collaborate to develop an innovative digital business environment, including through frameworks and understandings on best practice that encourage the development, application, uptake and management of new technologies; **2.B.f** Deepen APEC's multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration on digital issues, especially with business;

	2.B.e Promote measures, interoperable approaches, and the use of digital technologies to facilitate trade and investment; **2.B.f** Promote ecosystems that support MSMEs, including those in the creative industry, to take advantage of the digital economy; and **2.B.g** Support the identification and integration of new and emerging sustainable transportation and mobility technologies and services.
C. "We will strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions."	**2.C.a** Accelerate APEC work and capacity building on the digital economy, including by prompt and effective implementation of APEC's Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap; **2.C.b** Cooperate on measures to address the digital divide, including facilitating access to digital infrastructure and supporting development of digital skills and digital literacy; **2.C.c** Cooperate to accelerate digital transformation, including by supporting the digitalisation of industries such as services, manufacturing and agriculture; **2.C.e** Promote e-commerce / digital trade, including by supporting the development and implementation of international and regional norms and standards for the digital economy, compatibility of standards, regulations and systems, and supporting discussion and sharing best practice on rules and regulations in e-commerce/ digital trade; **2.C.f** Cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions; **2.C.g** Cooperate on the provision of consumer protection in the digital environment; **2.C.h** Promote cost-effective mechanisms that support cross-border business-to-business engagement, including through electronic transactions and dispute resolution including under the APEC Collaborative Framework for Online Dispute Resolution of Cross Border Business-to-Business Disputes; and **2.C.i** Stimulate practical application of digital technologies for inclusive and sustainable growth in such areas as trade, finance, public services and healthcare.
Economic Driver 3: Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth	
Objective	**Collective action**
A. "To ensure that the Asia-Pacific region is resilient to shocks, crises, pandemics and	**3.A.a** Build on APEC's Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion to enhance economic inclusion for all, including by: Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade and investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life for

other emergencies, we will foster quality growth that brings palpable benefits and greater health and wellbeing to all, including MSMEs, women and others with untapped economic potential."	all members of society; Advancing gender equality and the economic empowerment of women, particularly through accelerating the full implementation of the actions in the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth and building on them; Promoting start-ups and advancing MSMEs' access to finance, global markets, and global value chains as well as assisting in building their capacity to effectively participate in the wider economy; Building on APEC's work on supporting MSMEs' and women's economic empowerment, and cooperate to further develop APEC's work on other groups with untapped economic potential, such as indigenous peoples as appropriate, people with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities; Promoting economic and technical cooperation to enhance capacity building and inclusive economic participation; and Sharing experiences and best practice to promote inclusiveness and quality of life, including through: promoting structural reform to remove barriers to economic participation; encouraging the transition of economic actors from the informal to the formal economy; and data analysis. **3.A.b** Enable quality and equitable health access and outcomes for all with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including by strengthening health systems, by cooperating on: preventing, detecting, responding to, and recovering from, pandemics; accelerating equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable vaccines for all; supporting the safe, secure and efficient operation of resilient health related supply chains; and the use of digital technologies that foster health system innovation, such as telemedicine and digital health; **3.A.c** Ensure lasting food security, food safety and improved nutrition for all, as well as reducing food waste and loss in the region by promoting agricultural and food trade, agricultural sustainability and innovation, and implementing the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030; and **3.A.d** Enhance cooperation to foster secure growth, including by implementing the APEC Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption, Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency, and the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy.
B. "We will intensify inclusive human resource development as well as economic and technical cooperation to better equip our people with the skills and knowledge for the future."	**3.B.a** Innovate and exchange expertise on skills and human resource development, and cooperate on sharing lessons and best practice in these areas; **3.B.b** Cooperate to improve the collection and analysis of skills and labour market data sets, including to better assess and bridge skills gaps and mismatches between skills and employment; **3.B.c** Strengthen economic and technical cooperation to intensify capacity building in inclusive human resource development; **3.B.d** Cooperate on the development of skills and literacy for all to accelerate the digital transformation of the region's economy, including by implementing APEC's Education Strategy and the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age; and

	3.B.e Build on existing APEC work on mutual recognition of qualifications to deepen and widen its coverage.
C. "We will promote economic policies, cooperation and growth, which will support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet."	**3.C.a** Cooperate in relevant APEC fora to develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through: structural reform; trade, including APEC's work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services; public finance, including tax policy and rationalising and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognising the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services; sustainable infrastructure and transport; promoting sustainable growth across sectors and the development of cost effective low and zero emissions technologies, sustainable finance and, if appropriate, carbon pricing mechanisms; and ensuring energy security, access, reliability and resilience through energy transition. **3.C.b** Seek to deliver existing Leaders' commitments on energy issues: particularly to accelerate progress towards the 2030 target of doubling the share of renewable energy in the APEC energy mix, including in power generation, from 2010 levels by 2030; and to deliver a plan to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45%, from 2005 levels, by 2035; **3.C.c** Work towards the sustainable resource management of agriculture, forestry and marine resources and fisheries, including by implementing the APEC Roadmaps on Marine Debris, and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and commitments to combat illegal logging and associated trade; **3.C.d** Further implement the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework; **3.C.e** Advance APEC's circular economy work; and **3.C.f** Advance work on sustainable tourism.
Continuous Improvement of APEC as an Institution	
Objective	**Collective action**
"To maintain APEC's unique position as the premier forum for regional economic cooperation as well as a modern, efficient and effective incubator of ideas, we will embrace continuous improvement of APEC as an	**CI.A** Improve its governance and organisational structure, with a view to efficiently and effectively delivering upon all elements of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040; **CI.B** Ensure the sustainability of the staffing and resourcing of the APEC Secretariat and Policy Support Unit (PSU), while ensuring that the institution remains financially prudent; **CI.C** Explore ways to discuss the possibility of expanding APEC members and observers;

institution through good governance and stakeholder engagements.”	**CI.D** Deepen engagement with ABAC and the private sector, as well as PECC, PIF, ASEAN, and other international and regional organisations; **CI.E** Promote engagement with a broader range of economic stakeholders, such as NGOs and civil society, to reflect the breadth of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040; **CI.F** Review and update APEC’s relationship with the APEC Study Centre Consortium; **CI.G** Continuously improve the communication of APEC’s work to the broader public; and **CI.H** Consider how to better make use of digital technologies for participation in APEC.

Goals, Key Areas, Aspirational Targets	
4.a. Supporting global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet, particularly in terms of climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience by:	i. *Contributing* practical, ambitious and concrete initiatives to transition to a climate-resilient future global economy which align with global efforts, such as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as appreciating and supporting APEC members' respective net zero / carbon neutrality commitments, recognising the urgent need to collectively address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the need to provide international support including capacity building, technological and financial support, which are key enablers in this regard; ii. *Enhancing* adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and associated risks, including through mainstreaming adaptation measures into policies, strategies and planning, as well as disaster and emergency preparedness and management; iii. *Strengthening* cooperation to develop and exchange policies and best practices, and promote capacity building and awareness-raising programmes that address all environmental and climate challenges, and support sustainable growth; iv. *Ensuring* diversity and inclusion in our collective efforts to address climate change; v. *Advancing* the transition to clean and low-carbon energy through various pathways reflecting the different circumstances in each economy, strengthening energy resilience, promoting energy security, and ensuring affordable and reliable energy access, including by fostering technical collaboration and exchange of best practices and experiences. We acknowledge the importance of stable energy markets and clean energy transitions. Noting the progress made to date, APEC economies are discussing goals for further strengthening the region's capacity to adopt renewable energy and other clean and low-emissions energy technologies; vi. *Recalling* our commitment to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption while recognising the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services, and, to reach this goal, continuing efforts in an accelerated manner; vii. *Promoting* sustainable, resilient, productive, and inclusive food systems and agricultural practices, achieving food security and nutrition, reducing food loss and waste, including through encouraging environmentally-friendly policies and minimising environmentally-harmful ones, conserving agrobiodiversity, and enhancing the use of agricultural biotechnology, digitalisation and other innovative approaches;

	viii. *Promoting* research, development and deployment of cost-effective low and zero emissions technologies, acknowledging that there are a variety of technologies and approaches available; ix. *Supporting* finance and investments in sustainability and climate action, including disaster risk finance insurance, and, if appropriate, carbon pricing and non-pricing mechanisms and international carbon credit markets, as well as exploring options to support the alignment of financial flows towards a greener and cleaner global economy, for example taxonomies and other alignment approaches.
4.b. Progressing sustainable and inclusive trade and investment and ensuring that they are mutually supportive with our environmental policies by:	i. *Intensifying* work that enhances stability, resilience and sustainability of supply chains, as well as improves connectivity, including through the implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint and advancing cooperation and sharing best practices on green public procurement; ii. *Advancing* work on the facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services, building on discussion about the APEC List of Environmental Goods and the Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services and further discussing the impact of non-tariff measures on trade in environmental goods; iii. *Advancing* concrete initiatives on responsible business conduct, environment, social and governance (ESG) industry practices, for example through the development of sustainable tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, transport and logistics sectors, as well as the green and low-carbon digital and technology sectors; iv. *Advancing* gender equality and economic integration, inclusion and empowerment of women; v. *Strengthening* the roles of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including encouraging the formulation of an updated APEC Strategy for Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs, building capabilities for MSMEs in sustainability practices such as the ESG and BCG approaches, and collaborating to improve opportunities for MSMEs to be competitive, specialised, innovative and expand into international markets.
4.c. Promoting environmental conservation, sustainable use and management of natural resources, as well as halting and reversing biodiversity loss by:	i. *Enhancing* conservation and sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems as well as sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, including preventing, combatting and working towards ending illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and implementing the APEC Roadmap on Combatting IUU Fishing; ii. *Continuing* work to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic pollution, including through the implementation of the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris; iii. *Strengthening* efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade, stop the degradation of forest ecosystems, and promote trade and consumption in sustainably managed and legally harvested forest products; iv. *Striving* to ensure diversity and inclusion to improve our efforts in maintaining, conserving, managing and protecting the environment and natural resources.

4.d. Advancing resource efficiency and sustainable waste management towards zero waste by:	i. *Increasing* cooperation to advance circular economy approaches, including through promoting circular business models as well as exchange policies and best practices, and sustainable production and consumption patterns.